

The Times-Dispatch.

Published Daily and Weekly

At No. 4 North Tenth Street, Richmond, Va. Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1903.

The President's Message.

President Roosevelt's message, which was sent to Congress yesterday, deals with several questions of public interest, not the least of which, by any means, is the Panama Canal question. On this point, the President speaks frankly and confidently, and says that we have made much better terms with Panama than we could have made with either Colombia or Nicaragua.

The President begins by congratulating the country on the "amount of substantial achievement," which has marked the past year, both as regards our foreign and our domestic policy. He thinks that the country is especially to be congratulated on what has been accomplished in the direction of providing for the exercise of supervision over the great corporations and combinations of corporations engaged in interstate commerce. He declares it to be the consistent policy of the national government, so far as it has the power, to hold in check the unscrupulous man, whether employer or employee; but to refuse to weaken individual initiative, or to hamper or cramp the industrial development of the country. "We recognize," says he in this connection, "that this is an era of federation and combination, in which great capitalistic corporations and labor unions have become factors of tremendous importance in all industrial centers. Heartily recognition is given the far-reaching, beneficent work which has been accomplished through both corporations and unions, and the line as between different corporations, as between different individuals; that is, it is drawn on conduct, the effort being to treat both organized capital and organized labor alike; asking nothing save that the interest of each shall be brought into harmony with the interest of the general public, and that the conduct of each shall conform to the fundamental rules of obedience to law, of individual freedom, and of justice and fair dealing towards all. Whenever either corporation, labor union or individual disregards the law or acts in a spirit of arbitrary and tyrannical interference with the rights of others, whether corporations or individuals, then where the Federal government has jurisdiction, it will see to it that the misconduct is stopped, paying not the slightest heed to the position or power of the corporation, the union or the individual, but only to the vital fact—that is, the question whether or not the conduct of the individual or aggregate of individuals is in accordance with the law of the land. Every man must be guaranteed his liberty and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor, so long as he does not infringe the rights of others. No man is above the law, and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right; not as a favor."

Mr. Roosevelt is a Republican, but he has here declared a great Democratic principle, and we have never seen it stated more clearly and concisely. It is well for representatives of corporations and representatives of labor unions and all sorts and conditions of men to keep the President's saying always in mind, and make it their rule of conduct. "Every man must be guaranteed his liberty, and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor, so long as he does not infringe the rights of others." That principle must be recognized and defended, else liberty will be but a name, and Democracy will be no more.

On the subject of currency, the President says that the integrity of our currency is beyond question, and that under present conditions it would be unwise and unnecessary to attempt a reconstruction of our entire monetary system. He recommends that the same liberty be granted the Secretary of the Treasury to deposit customs receipts as is granted in the deposit of receipts from other sources. If this be adopted by Congress it will go very far towards enlarging the volume of currency by preventing the government from unnecessarily holding money when it is needed in the channels of trade.

The President speaks especially of the importance of taking steps in the interest of American shipping, and recommends that Congress direct the Secretary of the Navy, the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, associated with the Senate and House, to serve as a commission for the purpose of investigating and reporting to Congress at its next session what legislation is desirable or necessary for the development of the American merchant marine and American commerce.

In the next place he recommends a special appropriation for the better enforcement of the anti-trust law as it now stands, to be expended under the direction of the Attorney-General. He deals at length with the Alaskan boundary dispute, and congratulates the country upon the final settlement of that annoying question. The President heartily recommends that the rural free delivery service be extended. He thinks that in the interest of the republic that the rural districts be built up, and that the extension of the free delivery service will go far towards making residence in the country more attractive. "It is unhealthy and undesirable," he says, "for the cities to grow at the expense of the country; and rural free delivery is not only a good thing in itself, but is good because it is one of the causes which check this unhealthy tendency towards urban concentration of our population at the expense of the country districts." He adds that it is for the same reason that he sympathizes with and approves the policy of building good roads.

He expresses the hope that Congress will continue to favor in all ways the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and recommends that the Exposition to be held in the summer of 1906 in Oregon be given the support of the national government. He does not make reference to the proposed Jamestown Exposition. A considerable portion of the message is devoted to our possessions in Alaska, and to the wisdom of developing that land as rapidly as possible. He reports steady progress in the Philippines and Porto Rico, and reminds Congress that a personal obligation rests upon us to further in every way the welfare of the communities. The President asserts that no one people ever benefited more than we have benefited the Filipinos by taking possession of their islands. In that we are inclined to agree with him.

In referring to the condition of the army, the President speaks of the work that has been done in the army schools to educate the soldier, and says that the government should as soon as possible secure permanent camp sites for military maneuvers. He believes in the merit system of promotion, and says that the only people who are contented with the system of promotion by mere seniority are those who are contented with the triumph of mediocrity over excellence, and that on the other hand a system, which encouraged the exercise of social or political favoritism in promotions, would be even worse. He thinks, however, that it would be easy to devise a method of promotion from grade to grade, in which the opinion of the higher officers of the service upon the candidates should be decisive upon the standing, and promotion of the latter; just such a system as now obtains at West Point.

In conclusion, the President speaks at length of the revolution in Panama, by which a new republic was created, with which republic he has now entered into a treaty to construct the Isthmian Canal. That part of the message is so interesting and so extensive that we shall not undertake to reproduce it here, as it is printed in full elsewhere.

Suffice it here to say that the President not only justifies the people of Panama in the act of secession, but says that it was the only course left to them. As for the United States, he says, our business was to refuse to permit the landing of any expeditionary force, the arrival of which would have meant chaos along the line of the railroad and the proposed canal. In other words, that we were in duty bound to preserve the peace, and the President makes no apology for the "indecent haste," with which he recognized the de facto government.

He tells the members of Congress that the question of making a treaty is no longer under discussion, for the treaty has been made, and it remains only for the Senate to ratify it. The only question now before the American people, he declares, is whether or not the canal shall be built.

That seems to be the situation.

The Virginia Building.

The proposal to raise a fund by private subscription to erect a State building on the St. Louis Exposition grounds has not been enthusiastically received by the people at large, and we are not surprised at it. Individual citizens naturally ask themselves why they should bear a burden like this for the benefit of the people at large, and while some have in a spirit of patriotism subscribed to the fund, many have declined and only a few thousand dollars have been subscribed.

Delegate Kelley, of Richmond, proposes that the General Assembly come to the rescue, and he has offered a bill to appropriate \$10,000 for that purpose.

The bill should by all means pass. Virginia is peculiarly interested in the St. Louis Exposition, and she should be well represented. She will have a fine exhibit, but she should also have a State building, which will do her credit. Some sort of a building will be erected, for the money which has been subscribed will be used as far as it will go. But unless the Legislature makes an appropriation, it will be a poor affair, and a poor advertisement for the State.

"Thousands of Virginians will attend the exposition, and the building will be a great convenience to them, to say nothing of its advantage to the State as an advertisement. We believe that the taxpayers generally are in favor of a liberal appropriation for the Virginia building, and we hope the Kelley bill will pass."

The Cotton Industry.

Cotton mill men from all parts of the South are billed to meet at Charlotte, N. C., to-day to consider the advisability of curtailing production, and it is probable that reduction all along the line will be decided upon.

"The situation is critical," said a leading manufacturer the other day. "Taken as a whole, I believe the condition confronting us to-day is the worst in twenty-five years. The only remedy I see is a general curtailment, the chief benefit from that being that the mills could run at smaller loss. What makes it worse for the South is that the mills in every



other part of the cotton manufacturing world are better off, so far as supplies of raw material are concerned, than we are. Early in the season, when we were holding out for lower prices, the cotton spinners came into the market and purchased their cotton, and, to-day, no matter where the price of cloth may go, they can manufacture cotton at a cost of from two to three cents a pound less than we can.

"Inasmuch as not more than a third of the American cotton crop is consumed in this country, we are in no position whatever to control the market, especially on export goods. As I see it, the only hope for us now is to curtail production and run our plants at a reduced loss."

In other days, when cotton planters of the South were considering the question of forming a trust to curtail the production of raw cotton and advancing the price, we argued that even if this was possible, the effect of it would probably be to injure rather than to benefit the South. It is a good thing for the farmers to get a high price for their cotton, but it is good for the entire South to have an abundant supply of raw cotton at a reasonable price. To cut down the supply of the raw material and advance the price is to cripple the cotton manufacturing industry, and to cripple that industry is to injure the South.

The logic of it all is, that whatever tends to help the South as a whole, tends to help the farmers, and, vice versa, whatever tends to injure the South as a whole, tends to injure the farmers. No man liveth to himself, and no class of men live to themselves. This is an age of interdependence.

Hill and Murphy.

The New York Sun says that David B. Hill recently paid a visit to Chief Murphy, as a result of which harmony has been restored, and Judge Alton B. Parker is to be New York's man for the presidential nomination.

The story is that Murphy was disposed to ignore Hill and to give him no part in the campaign. But Judge Parker is Hill's friend, and would not agree to the programme. He is reported to have said that he owed everything in his political career to Mr. Hill, and that if war was to be made upon Mr. Hill he would have no part in it. That gave Mr. Hill a decided advantage, and when Mr. Murphy fully understood it, a truce was inevitable.

If Judge Parker has, indeed, succeeded in harmonizing the New York Democracy, it gives him a great lead in the race for the nomination.

Now that he has put himself out of the presidential race, Mr. Cleveland is having more good things said about him than at any time since he first came from Buffalo to reach for higher things than were to be found in the mayor's office of that city.

With all the 400 keeping quiet and Grover Cleveland entirely out of the ring, all Kentucky is breathlessly awaiting Colonel Watson's next point of attack.

People who love to think and write on the weather can fill several columns about this delightfully cool spell we have had for the past few weeks.

The Montgomery Advertiser finds it hard to give up Mr. Cleveland, and wants to stop him from duck hunting and run him for the presidency, whether or no.

Mr. Roosevelt very promptly stuck another prop in the half open "door of Hope" which Dr. Crum has so long been trying to crawl through.

The people of Zion City seem to have played raven as long as they had, the cash to buy waffles and things for "Ell-jah" Dowie.

France is to reopen the Dreyfus case. Shouldn't wonder if somebody soon digs up some reminiscences of the Cluverius trial.

The message of the President to Congress tells a great deal more than even congressmen will read about.

The "big joke" has passed into history, and now we have a regular session of Congress on hand.

Dowie, the modern Elijah, hasn't gone up in a chariot of fire, but he has gone up, all the same.

Dr. Wood himself can hardly tell now whether he is a major-general or just a brigadier.

Crum undoubtedly admires the sticking qualities of the President.

IT'S WONDERFUL

The amount of good you'll receive from a few doses of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, especially when the stomach is disordered or the liver inactive. It cures LOSS OF APPETITE, SOUR STOMACH, HEARTBURN, DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION, CHILL, COLIC, BILIOUSNESS, and all other ailments of the digestive system. It also obtains a copy of our ILLUSTRATED ALMANAC for 1904 from your druggist. IT IS FREE and contains instructive reading matter that is well worth having.

HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS.

FEARS OF ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION.

Continued From Third Page.

that it would permit the landing of no expeditionary force, the arrival of which would mean chaos along the line of the railroad and the proposed canal, and an interruption of transit, the inevitable consequence of the de facto government of Panama was recognized in the following telegram to Mr. Sherman:

"The people of Panama have, by apparently unanimous movement, dissolved their political connection with the Republic of Colombia and resumed their independence. When you are satisfied that a de facto government, republican in form and without substantial objection from its own people, has been established in the State of Panama, you will enter into relations with it as a government of the United States and to keep open the Isthmian transit in accordance with the obligations of the United States to the Republic of Colombia, and to the Republic of Panama, and to the Republic of the United States to that territory."

The government of Colombia was notified of our action by the following telegram to Mr. Beaupre:

"The people of Panama, having, by an apparently unanimous movement, dissolved their political connection with the Republic of Colombia and resumed their independence, and having added to the armament of their own, republican in form, with which the government of the United States is in communication, the Republic of Panama, the President of the United States, in accordance with the law of friendship and comity, and in conformity with the equitable settlement of all questions of issue between them. He holds that he is bound not merely by treaty obligations, but by the interests of civilization, to see that the peaceful traffic of the world across the Isthmus of Panama shall not be interrupted by a constant succession of unnecessary and wasteful wars."

Since 1846.

When these events happened fifty-seven years had elapsed since the United States had entered into its treaty with New Granada, by which the Isthmian transit was guaranteed to the United States, and of its successor, Colombia, have been in a constant state of disturbance. The following is a partial list of the disturbances on the Isthmus of Panama during the period in question, as reported to us by our consular agents, and some of the reports that speak of "revolutions" must mean unsuccessful revolutions.

May 22, 1850.—Outbreak: two American killed. Vessels demanded to quell outbreak.

October, 1850.—Revolutionary plot to bring about independence of the Isthmus.

July 22, 1851.—Revolution in four southern provinces.

November 14, 1851.—Outbreak at Chagres. American forces sent to quell outbreak.

May 27, 1852.—Insurrection at Bogota and consequent disturbance on Isthmus. War vessels requested.

May 23, 1854.—Political disturbances; war vessels requested.

October 24, 1854.—Independence of Isthmus demanded by provincial legislature.

May 4, 1855.—Riot.

May 2, 1856.—Riot.

October 2, 1856.—Conflict between two native police forces.

December 15, 1858.—Attempted secession of Panama.

April, 1859.—Riot.

September, 1859.—Outbreak.

October 4, 1859.—Landing of United States forces in Chagres.

May 23, 1861.—Intervention of the United States forces required by Intendente.

October 1, 1861.—Insurrection and civil war.

April 4, 1862.—Measures to prevent rebels crossing Isthmus.

June 12, 1862.—Mosquera's troops refused admittance to Panama.

March 18, 1862.—Revolution and United States troops landed.

August, 1862.—Riot; unsuccessful attempt to inaugurate revolution.

March, 1863.—Unsuccessful revolution.

April, 1867.—Attempt to overthrow government.

August, 1867.—Attempt at revolution.

July 6, 1868.—Revolution; provisional government inaugurated.

August 23, 1868.—Revolution; provisional government overthrown.

April, 1869.—Revolution; followed apparently by counter-revolution.

February, 1870.—Insurrection and civil war which lasted to October, 1870.

August, 1870.—Civil war, which lasted until April, 1871.

July, 1871.—Rebellion.

December, 1871.—Revolt.

April, 1872.—Insurrection.

June, 1873.—Revolution.

March, 1873.—Riot.

May 23, 1873.—Riot.

June, 1874.—Revolutionary attempt.

December, 1874.—Revolutionary attempt.

January, 1875.—Revolution.

April, 1875.—Disturbance on Panama railroad.

November, 1875.—Disturbance on line of canal.

January, 1876.—Riot.

January, 1876.—Revolution, which lasted until April.

March, 1876.—Insurrectionary attempt.

October, 1876.—Revolution.

February, 1877.—Insurrection and civil war.

January, 1877.—Revolution.

July, 1877.—Revolutionary disturbances.

September, 1877.—Civil war between rebels.

March, 1878.—Revolutionary disturbances.

July, 1878.—Revolution.

There Have Been Many.

The above is only a partial list of the revolutions, rebellions, insurrections, riots and other outbreaks that have occurred during the period in question, yet they number fifty-three for the fifty-seven years. It will be noted that one of them lasted nearly three years, and before it was quelled, another for nearly a year. In short, the experience of over half a century has shown Colombia to be utterly incapable of keeping order on the Isthmus. Only the active interference of the United States has enabled her to keep it quiet, and much as we may sympathize with her, we cannot but feel that she is not fit to be entrusted with the Isthmus.

Had it not been for the exercise by the United States of the police power in her interest, her people would have been suffering long ago. In 1856, in 1860, in 1873, in 1885, in 1890, in 1891, in 1892, in 1893, in 1894, in 1895, in 1896, in 1897, in 1898, in 1899, in 1900, in 1901, in 1902, in 1903, in 1904, in 1905, in 1906, in 1907, in 1908, in 1909, in 1910, in 1911, in 1912, in 1913, in 1914, in 1915, in 1916, in 1917, in 1918, in 1919, in 1920, in 1921, in 1922, in 1923, in 1924, in 1925, in 1926, in 1927, in 1928, in 1929, in 1930, in 1931, in 1932, in 1933, in 1934, in 1935, in 1936, in 1937, in 1938, in 1939, in 1940, in 1941, in 1942, in 1943, in 1944, in 1945, in 1946, in 1947, in 1948, in 1949, in 1950, in 1951, in 1952, in 1953, in 1954, in 1955, in 1956, in 1957, in 1958, in 1959, in 1960, in 1961, in 1962, in 1963, in 1964, in 1965, in 1966, in 1967, in 1968, in 1969, in 1970, in 1971, in 1972, in 1973, in 1974, in 1975, in 1976, in 1977, in 1978, in 1979, in 1980, in 1981, in 1982, in 1983, in 1984, in 1985, in 1986, in 1987, in 1988, in 1989, in 1990, in 1991, in 1992, in 1993, in 1994, in 1995, in 1996, 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